

T H E G R E A T F R O N T I E R

AN EXHIBITION

ILLUSTRATING THE IMPACT

MADE BY THE

DISCOVERY OF AMERICA

Opened by Walter Prescott Webb
At the Annual Meeting of the
Associates of the John Carter Brown Library
Brown University
April 13, 1962

Providence

1962



I - II DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION

1. Christopher Columbus. *Epistola*. Paris, 1493.

The Great Frontier, as the term is used in this exhibition, began with Christopher Columbus. Europe had long been aware of lands beyond their own world. Marco Polo brought back news of Cathay two centuries earlier, and the Portuguese had been coasting the shores of Africa, while Norsemen and probably others had crossed the North Atlantic. Columbus's achievement had two characteristics that set it apart. It revealed a great land mass that had never been suspected and it was immediately reported to all of Europe. This, his official report, was the first discovery to be announced through the printing press. Within four years it was reprinted in seventeen known editions and versions. From our collection we have chosen one printed in Paris. Other editions appeared in Spain, Italy, Holland, Germany, and Switzerland. The book is opened to a woodcut that was probably originally drawn to illustrate an angel announcing the birth of Christ to the shepherds in the field. Later writers frequently ranked the discovery of America second to that event.

2. Amerigo Vespucci. *Van der nieuwer werelt oft landtscap...* [Antwerp, 1508].

Columbus's four voyages were confined to the Caribbean. Not until 1503 did an account of the large American land mass become available. It was Amerigo Vespucci's report of his third voyage to America in 1501 and 1502, during which he sailed south along the coast of South America perhaps as far as the Rio de la Plata, that revealed there was in fact a vast unknown continent in the western ocean. Best known by the title Mundus Novus and first printed in 1503, the work by 1515 had been reprinted thirty-nine times. The pamphlet's popularity had a far-reaching effect because it was embodied by Martin Waldseemüller in his Cosmographiae Introductio of 1507 and thus the new continents were named America. We have chosen to show this unique Dutch abridgment of 1508 because it contains one of the earliest woodcut attempts to depict the American Indian.

3. Antonio Pigafetta. *Le Voyage et Navigation faict par les Espaignolz*. Paris, 1525.

It was Ferdinand Magellan who was responsible for the final major voyage of discovery. Every educated man knew the world was round, but it was not until the return of his fleet in 1522 that the true nature of the earth's geography began to be revealed. Because of Magellan's murder on the island of Mactan off Cebu in the central Philippines, the first account of this achievement was written by this young Italian who kept a careful log which he published soon after his return. The track of the voyage may be seen in the Agnese Atlas elsewhere in the exhibition.

4. Montalboddo Fracan. *Itinerariū Portugallēsiū e Lusitaniā in India*. [Milan?] 1508.

Out of the discovery era grew a distinct literary form, collections of voyages. For many years publishers found it profitable to bring together the original accounts of explorers and their companions. Ultimately these collections ran to many volumes, but here we have the first major collection. It is best known by the title of the first edition of 1507, Paesi Nouamente Retrouati. In addition to accounts of Columbus's voyages it also contains the first printed accounts of the early Portuguese voyages around Africa. We have chosen to show the Latin translation because of the map of Africa on the title page.



5. Pietro Martire D'Anghiera. *Opera Legatio Babylonica Oceani Decas*. Seville, 1511.

A second, and much older, method of recording events of great importance was the chronicle. It was an early kind of historical account. The first great chronicle of the discovery era is known as the Decades of Peter Martyr. The author was an Italian who migrated to Spain and became intimately associated with the Court. He came to know personally many of the men who had sailed to the Indies, and he had direct access to written reports that they submitted. His account was written as a series of letters to various people in Italy. Their first official publication was this book which is opened to one of the earliest maps of the Caribbean area. Later editions were enlarged so that the final one printed in 1530 contains much more information. It went through numerous editions and abridgments in almost every European language. Today the book is regarded as a fundamental source for all who study the discovery era.

6. Giovanni Baptista Ramusio. *Delle Navigationi et Viaggi*. Venice, 1554-1556. 3 volumes.

Shown here is the culmination of the first half century of discovery. It is a three-volume collection of voyages compiled by an Italian. Altogether it contains seventy separate narratives of which twenty-two were drawn from manuscripts and had never been printed before. The most important is the first printed appearance of the account of The Voyage of Giovanni da Verrazzano along the coast of North America in 1524, the first exploration of the coast of this country as far north as Nova Scotia. This copy of Volume III is opened to that account. The pictures on the opposite page are at the end of the previous narrative, the first Spanish account of the descent of the Amazon.

7. Niccoló Zeno. *De i Commentarii del Viaggio*. Venice, 1558.

The map shown here illustrates one of the problems that has continually plagued chroniclers and historians, doubtful claims and mythical lands. The appearance of the book, to which the map belongs, brought to the attention of the world the claims that members of the Zeno family, merchants of Venice, had sailed the North Atlantic many years before Columbus and discovered many islands and lands hitherto unknown to Europeans. The most notable of these was the large island of Frisland. The author, Niccoló Zeno, wrote the book in the middle of the sixteenth century saying it was based on documents in his family. It has been the subject of scholarly dispute ever since. The significant point for us is that the island of Frisland was copied on later maps even after later voyages had shown that it could not exist.

8. André Thevet. *Les Singularitez de la France Antarctique, Autrement Nommée Amerique*. Paris, 1558.

Still another kind of writer who caused trouble was the man who made a comparatively short visit to America, but upon returning wrote an account that purported to be a first-hand description of places he had never been. The author of this book accompanied a French expedition which tried to establish a colony on the coast of Brazil in 1555. The book contains a description of the coast of North America where Thevet claims to have made a voyage. It is clear that he never made such a trip and that he culled his information from other sources. However, the illustrations are an early and delightful rendition of some of the Brazilian natives.

9. Jacques Cartier. *Discours du Voyage*. Paris, 1598.

The early French discoveries center around the name of Jacques Cartier, whose voyages in 1534 and 1535 laid the basis for France's claims to Canada. This book is the first French edition of the first voyage during which the St. Lawrence River was explored. The only earlier printed account is an Italian one in Ramusio's collection of voyages.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS TO THE PRESENT TIME
BY
JOHN F. JOHNSON
NEW YORK: PUBLISHED BY J. JOHNSON, 175 NASSAU ST. N.Y.
1850

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THE POLISH IMMIGRANTS	670
THE RUSSIAN IMMIGRANTS	685
THE GREEK IMMIGRANTS	700
THE ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS	715
THE SPANISH IMMIGRANTS	730
THE PORTUGUESE IMMIGRANTS	745
THE FRENCH IMMIGRANTS	760
THE ENGLISH IMMIGRANTS	775
THE SCOTCH IMMIGRANTS	790
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10. Sir Humphrey Gilbert. *A Discourse of a Discoverie for a New Passage to Cataia*. London, 1576.

England, like Holland, was a latecomer in colonizing the New World, but her sea captains had been on the scene from the beginning. John Cabot's voyage of 1497 to Newfoundland laid the basis of her claim to North America. Toward the end of the sixteenth century, Englishmen again ventured into the western ocean. They were particularly anxious to find a shorter route to the wealth of the East Indies. The author of this book was one of those Englishmen around whose names a romantic aura still hangs. A stepbrother of Sir Walter Raleigh, he long believed that a great fortune awaited him if he were granted permission to discover the northwest passage he was convinced existed. In this book he presents his arguments for such an expedition. Finally in 1583 his wish was granted and he set forth only to be drowned at sea.

11. Richard Hakluyt. *Divers voyages touching the Discoverie of America...made first of all by our Englishmen*. London, 1582.

It was during the Elizabethan era that England began to exploit her claims in America. Names such as Raleigh, Gilbert, and Sir Francis Drake are ordinarily associated with this vigorous period of expansion. However, behind them all lies a scholar. Richard Hakluyt, while still a school boy, became deeply interested in geography. Throughout his long life he devoted all his energies to urging his countrymen to seize the long neglected opportunities of overseas expansion. He did it through a series of twenty-four publications between 1580 and 1614 in which he collected and translated into English a substantial part of the literature of exploration written since the discovery. The one shown here is his first collection of voyages and in it he lays down the priority of English claims. One of the maps that goes with this book is shown on a panel.

12. Sir Walter Raleigh. *The Discoverie of the Large, Rich, and Bewtiful Empyre of Guiana*. London, 1596.

An even more romantic figure than Gilbert was his stepbrother, Sir Walter Raleigh. Both had dreams of gaining wealth from the frontier, but Raleigh sought it on the American continents. His most grandiose scheme was the search for the fabled city of Manoa or El Dorado which was reputed to contain great quantities of gold. It was supposed to be located somewhere on the Orinoco River in what is now Venezuela. He hoped that there might still be another land of great wealth like Mexico and Peru awaiting discovery. His venture, upon which he set out in 1595, failed, but he combined it with attacks on Spanish possessions in the southern Caribbean area. His enemies in England declared the whole voyage to be fictional, and it was to counter these accusations that he wrote this book.

13. Jan Huygen van Linschoten. *Itinerario, Voyage ofte Schipvaert*. Amsterdam, 1596.

Holland was a latecomer on the Great Frontier. It was not until the end of the sixteenth century that she began to send out expeditions, but it was the Dutch who were responsible for the addition of Australia to world geography. They also received the credit for opening up both Japan and the East Indies. They were almost entirely concerned with trade, but their captains brought back accounts of many new and strange lands. The exploits of great circumnavigators such as Olivier van Noort, Joris van Spilbergen, and a number of others had their achievements recorded in this narrative of early Dutch voyages designed to encourage Holland to develop an overseas empire. The book is opened to a map of the East Indies, the area in which the Dutch empire was to flourish.

III - IV THE SEA

14. Martin Fernandez de Enciso. *Suma de Geographia*. Seville, 1519.

It was on the sea that the frontier first challenged western man to develop new ways of dealing with old problems. Shipbuilding, sailing, and navigation took great strides forward when men voyaged for weeks and months far out of sight of land. This exhibition case contains books that illustrate these maritime developments. Astronomers had long studied the shape of the earth and had compiled mathematical tables to assist them. Finally after the Discovery of America the many elements necessary were gathered in manuals specifically to aid navigation. Shown here is the first Spanish manual. It is a combination of a number of earlier treatises, and contains tables for finding a ship's position from the stars and a discussion of the position and conditions of all the countries of the world.

15. Pedro Nunes. *Tratado da Sphera*. Lisbon, 1537.

This is the greatest of the early books on navigation. The author, a Portuguese mathematician, discussed such vital problems as how to construct a satisfactory flat map on which the spherical globe could be laid down. Here also for the first time "great circle" sailing is described. Perhaps the most important thing about the book is the fact that Nunes was a critical scholar rather than a mere compiler of earlier data. Everything he set down was carefully analyzed and evaluated.

16. Pedro de Medina. *Arte de Navegar*. Valladolid, 1545.

Here we have the most popular of all Spanish books on navigation. It went through a number of editions and was the standard work used by Spanish captains for many years. It was also the basic work used later in France by students of navigation. The book is opened to a chart showing that part of the Atlantic crossed by the great fleets of galleons as they carried the wealth of Mexico and Peru to the coffers of Spain.

17. Martin Cortés. *The Arte of Navigation... Translated out of Spanishe... by Richard Eden*. [London], 1561.

The English literature on navigation was derived from another Spanish work, Martin Cortés's Breve Compendio d la Sphera y de la arte de navegar, first printed in Seville in 1551. For that reason we have preferred to show here the first of eight English editions. The translation is by Richard Eden, one of Richard Hakluyt's predecessors as a translator of Spanish accounts of America. This copy at one time belonged to Robert Southey, the poet and historian who at one time planned a utopian community on the banks of the Susquehanna River with some friends who included Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

18. Diego Garcia de Palacio. *Instrucion Nauthica*. Mexico, 1587.

This is the first book on navigation to be written and published in America. The author presented his text in the form of a dialogue. It includes a section on shipbuilding and a vocabulary of sea terms.

19. Captain John Smith. *A Sea Grammar*. London, 1627.

British seamen occupy a special place in our history. Somehow they epitomize all the virtues of adventure, fortitude, and bravery. Yet, then as today, there was the task of training young men to become seamen. Here, written by a famous author whose name is almost synonymous with the first permanent English colony, we have a handbook for sailors. In it he includes chapters on how ships are built, nomenclature, rigging, small boats, discipline, ship handling, sea fights, and a list of books essential for a mariner to own. We have chosen to show the second enlarged edition because its title is so much more descriptive than that of the earlier edition of 1626, An Accidence or the Path-way to Experience. The Blue Jackets Manual, issued by the United States Navy today, is a descendent of this little book.

20. Edward Wright. *Certain Errors in Navigation*. London, 1657.

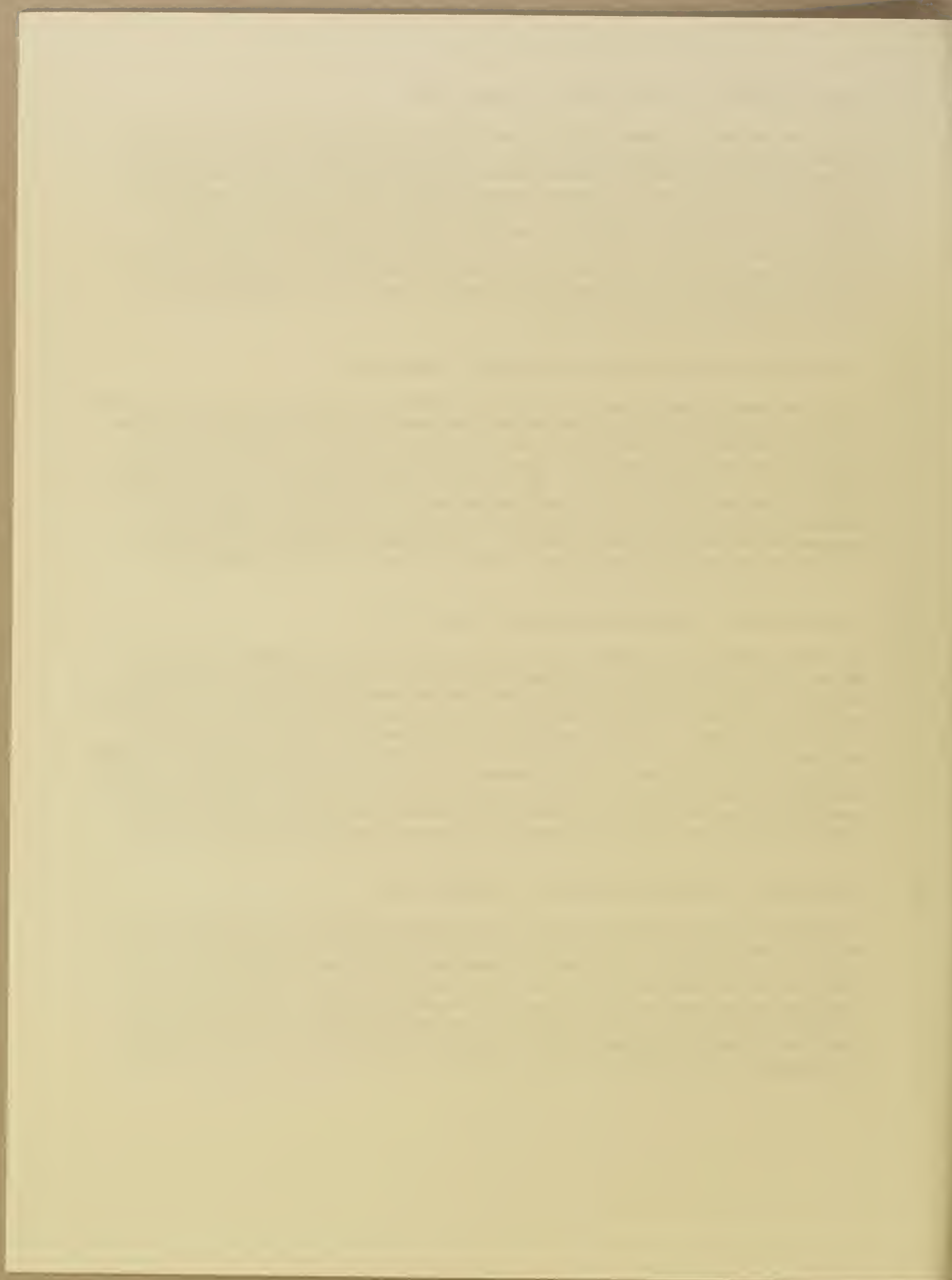
This is the most influential work on navigation published in England during the seventeenth century. It was first issued in 1599, but we have preferred to show this edition because it contains additions by Joseph Moxon, the noted maker of nautical instruments, and because of the world map on the title page. Wright's importance arises from his distinguished career as a mathematician. He compiled, and here published for the first time, a table of meridional parts. This mathematical table was essential in working out the problems involved in Gerard Mercator's projection for a world map. Wright later executed the second map on that projection. It is displayed elsewhere in the exhibition in Hakluyt's The Principal Navigations of 1598-1600, where it was first published.

21. Sir Robert Dudley. *Dell'Arcano del Mare*. Firenze, 1646.

This book is difficult to classify. Its four parts amount to an encyclopedia of the lore of the sea. The author was the son of Queen Elizabeth I's favorite minister, the Earl of Leicester, whose two grandfathers had been lord high admirals of England. As a young man, he commanded a raiding expedition against the Spanish colonies and later participated in an attack on Cadiz. However, in 1605 he left England forever after having failed to establish his legitimacy and thus his rights to his father's title. Settling in Italy, he began the compilation of this book. We have opened it to a plate showing the profile of a galleon, the kind of ship associated with the great ocean-going fleets of Spain. The development of these great ships that could stay at sea for long periods and weather the storms of the Atlantic played a vital role in the expansion of European domination of the New World.

22. Luke Wagenar. *The Mariners Mirrour*. [London, 1588].

The publication of this work was a major event in the development of the literature of the sea. It is the first true sea atlas designed specifically for the use of mariners. The author was a Dutch pilot. He included, in addition to sailing and navigation instructions, a large number of detailed charts of the coastal waters of Europe on which were shown soundings, anchorages, and many other things essential to a pilot. The work was so successful that for many years a "Waggoner" served as the generic name for sea atlas. Shown here is the first English edition. The original publication was entitled Spieghel der Zeevaert and was printed in Leyden in 1584.



23. Edward Hayward. *The Sizes and Lengths of Riggings*. London, 1660.

When the sailors of the Renaissance ventured out of the Mediterranean, they had to give up man-powered galleys and depend entirely upon sail. Out of this development came the highly complicated full rigged ships that sailed all the oceans of the world long before the advent of steam power. Here is a description of the state of rigging in the British navy in the seventeenth century. The boatswain and his men were highly skilled technicians. It was upon their ability to operate the great yards and many lines that the entire well-being of a ship depended.

24. William Sutherland. *The Ship-builders Assistant*. London, 1711.

This treatise is typical of a number of similar works written by various English ship-builders. It appeared at the beginning of the century that would end with England's mastery of the seas, and is opened to a plate showing plans of a vessel of the period. Note the sturdy lines of this English ship as compared to the dramatic sweep of the lines of the Spanish galleon in Dudley's book.

V - VI WEALTH AND TRADE

25. Francisco López de Gómara. *La istoria de las Indias*. Saragossa, 1552.

The wealth of the Spanish Indies was broadcast to the Old World by many reporters of which perhaps the most important is López de Gómara. Writing after the completion of the Spanish conquests about the middle of the sixteenth century, Gómara chronicles the exploitation of the native population and includes many references to mining. This is one of the very few known copies of the first edition. Before 1800 more than a dozen editions in Spanish, sixteen in Italian, twelve in French and two in English were published, giving some indication of its widespread appeal.

26. Francisco Xavier de Gamboa. *Comentarios a las ordenanzas de minas*. Madrid, 1761.

Mining in the New World created problems and a need arose for a revised code of ordinances. Gamboa, the author of these learned commentaries, was perhaps the most eminent legal authority in Mexico at the time, and therefore well qualified for the work. He included much information on the history and current state of mining and metallurgy in Mexico, and cites nearly all the contemporary books on the subject. Also included is a glossary of obscure words pertaining to mining then in use. Francisco de Gamboa's Comentarios is an important element in the formation of Mexico's present mining code.

27. Alvaro Alonso Barba. *Arte de los metales en que se enseña el verdadero beneficio de los de oro, y plata açogue*. Madrid, 1640.

Potosí, the Peruvian mountain of silver, is the most famous of the rich mines of the frontier. Barba, a long-term resident of Peru, and for many years parish priest at Potosí, visited the mines, studied their workings, and finally wrote this treatise on metallurgy. In it he describes important innovations developed in the process of amalgamation and includes illustrations of the smelting apparatus. This work, through its classification of the various types of metals and the descriptions it contained, was influential in the development of wider knowledge of metallurgy.

28. Assiento ajustado entre las dos magestades, catholica, y christianissima, con la Compania Real de Guinea. [Paris, 1703].

Following the Spanish conquests, a cheap supply of labor was available in the Indians. This source dwindled, however, under harsh treatment, and fresh recruits were needed. Spain, not wishing to become involved in the traffic herself, entered into "asientos" or contracts, first with Portugal and subsequently with the Dutch, the French and the English, for the importing of African slaves. Thus began both the influx of the Negro into the New World on a large scale and the so-called triangular trade. The "asientos" were one of the ways in which other European nations obtained a share of the wealth of the Spanish indies.

Exhibited here is an extremely rare and unrecorded copy of the "asiento" between Spain and France, granting the latter the exclusive right of importation for the period 1702-1712. This contract called for the delivery of 144,000 slaves within a period of thirty years. In 1713, France lost its monopoly as a spoil of war under the Treaty of Utrecht to Great Britain.

29. Gerardo Moro. Informe en Derecho. Mexico, 1724.

Great Britain assumed the trade in slaves after the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, continuing to supply the Indies until 1739, with another renewal of the trade from 1748 to 1750. Not until 1789 did Spain acquire the island of Annobon as a slave base from which she conducted her own traffic until the suppression of the trade.

Moro's Informe is a legal statement of the British privileges and exemption from the "alcabala" or sales tax on all goods (including slaves) brought into Mexico and the other Spanish colonies. In practice, however, local officials frequently blinked at violations so that it was possible for British traders to do more business than the "asiento" contract allowed.

30. Anthony Benezet. A caution and warning to Great Britain and her colonies, in a short representation of the calamitous state of the enslaved Negroes in the British Dominions. Philadelphia, 1766.

With this item, twenty-three years before the expiration of the last "asiento", we find the beginnings of the abolition movement which was to culminate in the nineteenth century in England through the influence of William Wilberforce. Benezet, a French Huguenot, was a convert to Quakerism; his Caution and Warning was examined and approved by the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in 1766. Many copies were distributed in England where they added to the impetus of Quaker efforts toward abolition. This is the first of several editions reprinted as late as 1785.

31. By the King, A Proclamation Prohibiting His Majesties Subjects to Trade within the Limits Assigned to the Governour and Company of Adventurers of England, Trading into Hudson's Bay except those of the Company. London, 1688.

One of the oldest commercial corporations in existence today, the Hudson's Bay Company is the last survivor of the many charter companies established in the eighteenth century to exploit the resources of the newly discovered lands beyond the sea. The "Governour and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay" was chartered by Charles II ostensibly to search for a passage to the South Seas. This proclamation gives indication that the monopolies of these companies were challenged from time to time.



32. Entwerffung Von Eroberung der Stadt Olinda, so in der Hauptmanschafft Pharnambuco gelegen. [1630].

The Dutch were also anxious for a share of the New World's wealth. An example is the Dutch West India Company's capture of Olinda, the captaincy of Pernambuco province, on the northeast coast of Brazil. The wealth of this sugar-producing city was enormous; slaves were in profusion and the owners of the sugar mills enjoyed a life as luxurious as if they were at court. The Dutch were able to retain their hold on this commercially important province until 1654 when the Portuguese dislodged them. This illustrated broadside is one of a number of similar portrayals of this frontier event, and is quite rare.

33. Francis Borland. Memoirs of Darien Giving a short Description of that Countrey, with an Account of the Attempts of the Company of Scotland To Settle a Colonie in that Place. Glasgow, 1715.

The speculative fever which seized the countries of Europe resulted in a number of financial "bubbles". The first of these involved the failure of the Company of Scotland, better known as the Darien Company. Illustrated here is a crude map of the harbor of the Scots' settlement on the Isthmus of Darien (now Panama) included in an account of the hardships suffered by its colonists.

34. A View of the Coasts, Countries and Islands Within the Limits of the South-Sea-Company. London, 1711.

The South Sea Company was chartered in 1711 for the purpose of reducing the public debt and "for erecting a Corporation to carry on the Trade to the South Seas and for the encouragement of the Fishery and for Liberty to trade in unwrought iron with the subjects of Spain." It was a scheme to make money out of money rather than goods or commodities, and became the English "bubble" when its highly inflated stock fell. Shown here is a volume of promotional literature opened to Herman Moll's map of the Company's trading "limits".

35. Het Groote Tafereel der Dwaasheid. [Netherlands, 1720?].

The Dutch seem to have become infected with the speculative disease simultaneously with the French and the English, though they never suffered in a comparable degree. The unusual book displayed here is composed of poems, plays, and cartoons satirizing the French or Mississippi "bubble" which had burst by 1720. This was the only "bubble" based on actual land holdings in the New World. The volume is opened to an illustrated poem, the title of which reads in English: "Mississippi, or the world-famous Goldland in the fancy of the wind-trade." Wind-trade is the term the Dutch used to ridicule the worthlessness of the stock of the Mississippi scheme. The "Great Mirror of Folly", as the Tafereel is called, was such a popular work that it was reissued many times.

VII LAW AND GOVERNMENT

36. Francisco de Victoria. *Relectiones Theologicae XII*. Lyon, 1557.

The laws and customs that governed the manner in which nations dealt with each other were profoundly affected by two unclaimed continents. Francisco de Victoria, professor of theology at the University of Salamanca, was the first man to concern himself with the many questions that were raised. What rights did discovery bestow and how were they determined? What was the status of the Indians and what were their rights? These and numerous other questions were the subject of a series of lectures delivered in 1532, just as Spain was getting ready to extend her conquests from Mexico into South America. Here is the first publication of his lectures. It is based on notes taken by his students.

37. Hugo Grotius. *De Jure Belli ac Pacis*. Paris, 1625.

Traditionally international law began with this book. However, it embodies many of the ideas and doctrines set down by Victoria and the men who followed him during the rest of the sixteenth century. Grotius's work grew out of the struggle of his native Holland to maintain its overseas trade against the opposition and attack of Spain and England. Freedom of the seas was his point of departure, and from it grew the many doctrines that now go to make up the great body we call international law.

From the Wheaton Collection, Brown University Library.

38. *Leyes y Ordenanças nuevamēte hechas por su Magestad pa la governacion de las Indias*. Alcala de Henares, 1543.

Another legal aspect of the American discoveries was the enormous task of administering overseas possessions. In the Spanish empire this task was centered in the Council of the Indies in Seville. From it radiated an immense bureaucracy and through it were issued laws and ordinances designed to govern the far-flung possessions. We have shown here the first published laws designed to govern the New World. Significantly it was almost entirely concerned with the regulations for the treatment of natives. These laws grew out of the charges of brutality made by Las Casas in a book shown elsewhere in this exhibition.

39. Thomas Gates. *For the Colony in Virginea Britannia. Lawes Divine, Morall and Martiall*. London, 1612.

Here we have a classic example of how a European institution could not be transferred in its pure form to America. These laws promulgated by a Virginia governor were essentially military laws. The settlers were to be ruled as if they were a garrison of common soldiers rather than volunteers who had set out to establish a new home. Although enforced for about ten years, it soon became apparent that such rules would not work and they were abandoned.

40. *The Lawes of Virginia now in Force*. London, 1662.

This is the first collected edition of the laws passed by the Virginia Assembly. Here is representative government at work in America. The influence of the new land is to be seen in various laws regulating tobacco, offering rewards for killing wolves, dealing with debtors who escape into the wilderness, disposing of land deserted by owners, and regulating the Indians. None of these would have found their way into English law.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF KING CHARLES THE FIRST

IN WHICH ARE CONTAINED THE
MOST IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING
PARTS OF HIS REIGN
FROM HIS MARRIAGE TO HIS DEATH
BY
JOHN BURNET
BISHOP OF SALISBURY
AND
OF THE DIOCESE OF EXETER

IN TWO VOLUMES
THE SECOND VOLUME

LONDON
Printed by J. B. ROBINSON, at the
PRINTING OFFICE, in Pall-mall
1734

41. The Book of the General Laws Of the Inhabitants of the Jurisdiction of New-Plimouth. Cambridge [Mass.], 1672.

Here we have the first printed laws of the first permanent English colony in New England. New Plymouth was a separate colony from 1620 to 1692, seventy-two years. Five states in the United States cannot yet claim to be that old. The opening paragraph of the compilation sets down a principle that was to become in time the basis of violent action by the British colonies. "Wee the Associates of New-Plimouth, comeing hither as Freeborn Subjects of the State of England, . . . Do in Act, Ordain and Constitute; That no Act, Imposition, Law or Ordinance, be made or imposed upon us, . . . but such as shall be made or imposed by consent of the Body of Freemen or Associates, or their Representatives legally Assembled." The Virginians did not feel it necessary to include such a statement in their laws.

42. Conductor Generalis, Or the Office, Duty and Authority of Justices of the Peace. Philadelphia, 1722.

Every treatise on the law published in the British colonies of North America before 1770 was intended for the use of laymen rather than trained lawyers. The administration of the law was largely in the hands of men whose preparation consisted largely of owning a legal handbook. Shown here is one of the earliest. It was compiled from a number of English legal works, and specifically omits "some few things not relating to these Parts of North-America. . . for example. . . Statutes made to regulate Hunting, Hawking, Fishing, Fowling. . . these Matters being free here in America, there was no Occasion to swell the Bulk of the Book. . ."

VIII RELIGION

43. Bartolomé de las Casas. Breuissima relacion de la destruycion de las Indias. Seville, 1552.

Just as the Crusades had been the greatest events occurring in the world two hundred years earlier, the discovery of the New World set in motion what amounted to a new crusade. The Church, involved in the controversies of the Reformation, was eager to find a new focus for its activities. Las Casas stands forward as the greatest single figure among the many who served in America. In this book he is the first to publish a protest against the harsh treatment of the natives. He was instrumental in getting the Spanish monarch to promulgate laws for their protection. Protestant enemies of Spain twisted the work into the foundation for the powerful historical tradition of Spanish brutality to American Indians.

44. Antonio Ruiz de Montoya. Vocabulario de la lengua Guarani. Santa Maria la Mayor, [Paraguay], 1772.

The activities of the Society of Jesus in Paraguay may be compared in many respects to those of the various charter companies. The Jesuits gathered the Indians together into communities or "reductions" where they set them to work, and taught, fed, protected and converted vast numbers of them. The Jesuits learned the native tongues. Shown here is a sample of their linguistic endeavors. Compiled by Father Ruiz, this Guarani vocabulary is believed to be the first printing accomplished at the Reduction of Santa Maria la Mayor. It is printed from brass type cast by the Indians on paper of their own manufacture, all under the direction of their Jesuit preceptors. As a result it deserves being called, as one writer terms it, an "all-American made" book.

45. Luis Becerra Tanco. Felicidad de Mexico. Mexico, 1675.

A tradition "long-standing and constant" relates to the Blessed Virgin Mary at Guadalupe in Mexico. A new convert, Juan Diego, as he hurried to mass in 1531, was asked by Our Lady to have a shrine built where she stood. The sign which she gave him to carry to the church authorities was her image upon his simple cloak. Shown here is the first known Mexican engraving of this event. The miracles which occurred on this side of the Atlantic were adaptations and transferrals of the European religious tradition, and were instrumental in furthering the work of the Church in this hemisphere.

46. Marc Lescarbot. La conversion des savvages. Paris, [1610].

This early description of French missionary activity in North America follows by only a year Lescarbot's better known work entitled Histoire de la Nouvelle France. This French lawyer and writer tells of the conversion of some of the "savvages" of Nova Scotia, and includes an extract from the Port Royal baptismal register which records the baptism of the great sagamore, Membertou and his family. The effect of the conversion of this aged chief was to make mandatory the acceptance of the new faith by the other members of his tribe. The baptisms were performed by a parish priest of Langres, Father LaFleche, who had accompanied the owner-grantee of Port Royal, Poutrincourt. The latter was a good Catholic who had little liking for the Jesuits. It was Poutrincourt's hope to Christianize New France without Jesuit help, but political pressure and the course of events at home soon precluded this possibility.

47. Paul Le Jeune. Brieve relation du Voyage de la Nouvelle France. Paris, 1632.

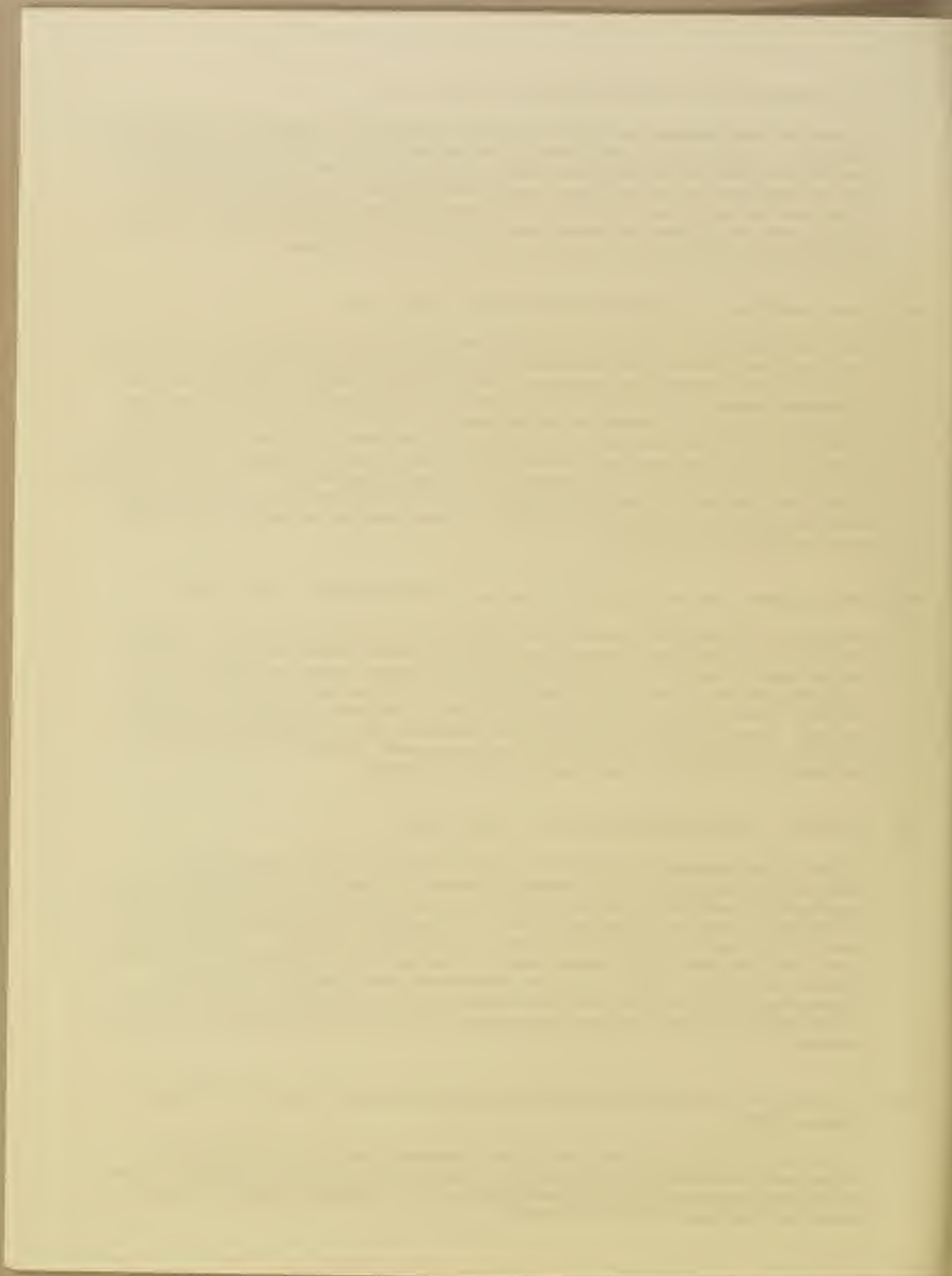
At the behest of Cardinal Richelieu, three Jesuit priests embarked in April of 1632 for New France. Shortly after their arrival, Father LeJeune, one of the three, sat down "in the midst of the forest more than eight hundred leagues distant from Quebec" and composed this letter, the first of a long series of "relations" sent to the Provincial of the Jesuit order in Paris and its General in Rome. Thus began both the great mission to the St. Lawrence Basin and another form of publicity for the Church's activities on this side of the Atlantic. The knights of the new crusade, the Jesuits, were the most influential of the Church's missionaries in this hemisphere.

48. John Eliot. New Englands first fruits. London, 1643.

Of the English missionaries, John Eliot's name is by far the most widely known. Arriving from England in 1631 he settled at Roxbury and quickly took advantage of an opportunity to learn the Algonquin tongue from a captive Indian. By the summer of 1647 he was able to preach to the Indians in their own language, and perhaps the best known work of this "Apostle to the Indians" was his translation of the Bible. The tract shown here is the first this prolific author wrote to encourage the Christianizing and civilizing of native Americans. Eliot, it must be remembered, was a member of one of the "Dissenting" churches rather than the established Church of England, and therefore is a representative of the sectarian fragmentation which occurred throughout the American colonies.

49. An act for the promoting and propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in New England. London, 1649.

Out of Eliot's efforts came the first English missionary society, the "Company for Propagation of the Gospell in New England, and the parts adjacent, in America." This enabling act was passed by the Cromwell Parliament, composed largely of "Dissenters", during the first year of the Commonwealth.



50. [Thomas Bray]. *Proposals for the Encouragement and Promoting of Religion and Learning in the Foreign Plantations*. [London, 1695?].

The Church of England soon followed the Dissenters in forming missionary societies. To counteract the shortage of Anglican priests in the Colonies, Thomas Bray published these proposals which were, in effect, designed to provide libraries for parish priests too poor to buy books. The library scheme soon took shape in the formation of the "Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge".

51. *Instructions for the Clergy Employ'd by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts*. [London, 1706].

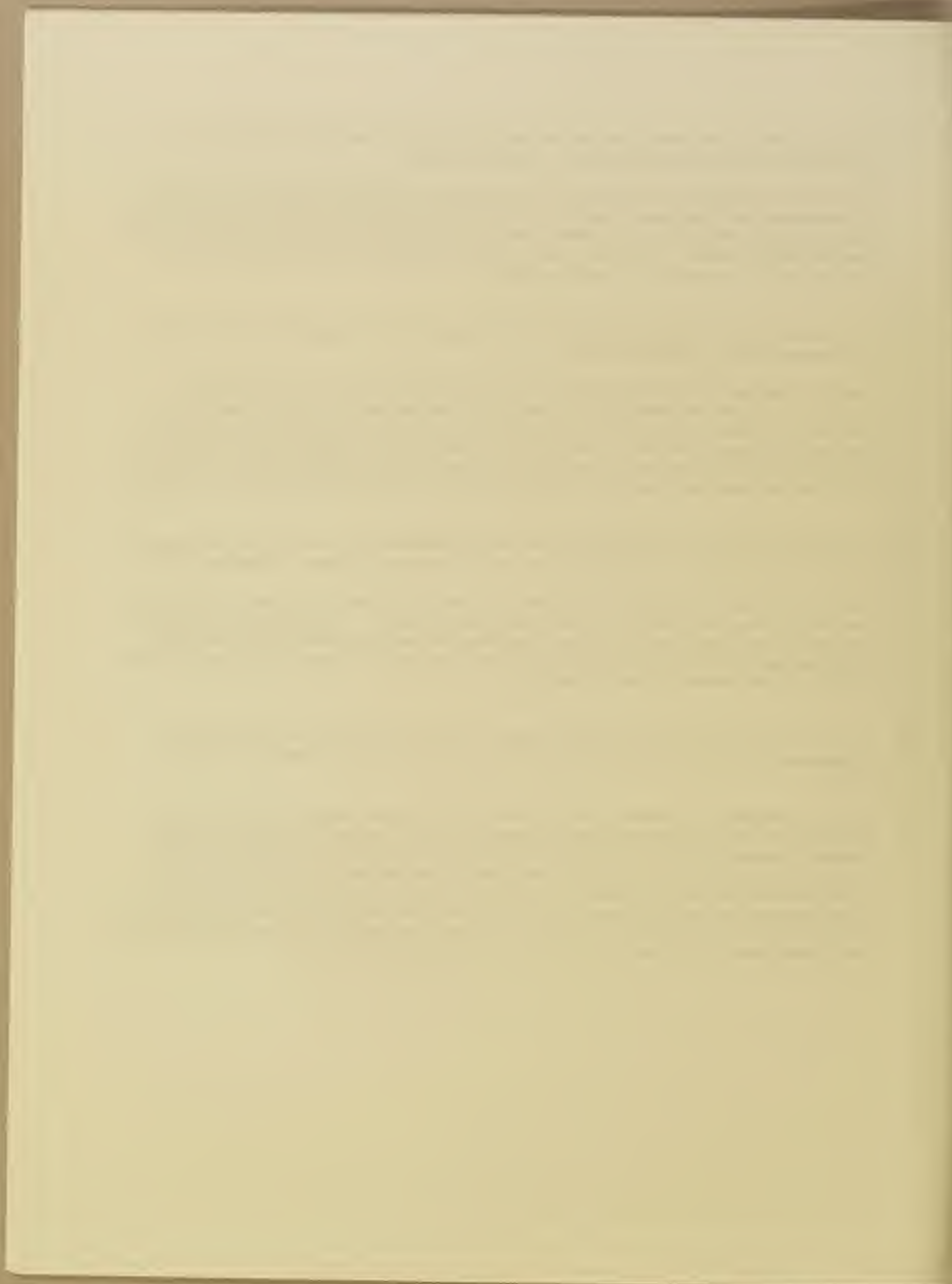
Another Anglican missionary endeavor, the "Venerable Society", also called the "S. P. G.", is here represented by a copy of the instructions to the missionaries it sent to the colonies, "embracing every particular which could possibly be required" for their guidance in the field. The S. P. G.'s efforts were largely directed toward the conversion of white settlers, particularly "papists", to the Anglican belief. Thus the Indian and his spiritual needs are removed from the foreground of missionary activity.

52. *An Account of some late Attempts by the Correspondents of the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, to Christianize the North American Indians*. Edinburgh, 1763.

Not to be outdone, the Scottish Presbyterians set up their own missionary organization, adopting a name very similar to that of the London society. The "Society in Scotland for propagating Christian Knowledge" supported the work of missionaries among the Delaware and Oneida tribes, and provided scholarships for "some Indian youths at the College of New Jersey" (now Princeton).

53. *A brief Account of the present State, Income, Expenditures, &c. of the Society for propagating the Gospel among the Indians, and others, in North America*. [Boston, 1795].

In the United States missionary effort became diffused and relatively non-sectarian. Though primarily of Congregationalist origin, the first native American missionary society, founded in 1787, was more interested in the distribution of Bibles and other religious works than in promoting its own denominational ends. No books upon controversial subjects were included in the Society's approved list "because the object of the society has not been to serve any particular sect or denomination, but to promote the interests of our common christianity." This is the Society's second publication, the first having been a similar "brief account" which appeared in 1790.



IX SCIENCE AND LEARNING

54. Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo y Valdés. *Natural hystoria delas Indias*. Toledo, 1526.

The first major statement to suggest that the frontiers of America were going to provide science with a multitude of new materials for study is to be found in this book. The author was present at the Court of Spain when Columbus returned from his first voyage. He later held important posts in America. This work is the first natural history of the Indies. At the beginning of the sixteenth century natural history included the study of plants, animals, and minerals, subjects that are now divided into botany, zoology, and mineralogy. In 1535 Oviedo published his *Historia*, which is a greatly enlarged version of this book. We chose to show this earlier work because of its great rarity.

55. Nicolás Monardes. *Joyfull Newes Out of the New-found Worlde*. London, 1596.

One of the great benefits the Old World hoped to reap from the New was the discovery of new cures for the diseases of the world. Hundreds of new plants were identified and described. Dr. Nicolás Monardes was an important early figure in this work. In his garden in Seville he planted seeds and plants that were brought to him from the Indies. They formed the basis of this book, the first American pharmacopoeia. Instead of the original Spanish edition of 1565 we have chosen to show the first English edition. It was translated by John Frampton, an English merchant in Spain who also, like Richard Eden and Richard Hakluyt, translated Spanish accounts for English readers.

56. John Josselyn. *New Englands Rarities*. London, 1672.

This is the first natural history of New England. It also contains sections on birds, animals, and fish. The English apparently were much less prone to be systematic about assembling data on natural history than the Spaniards were.

57. Peter Kalm. *En Resa Til Norra America*. Stockholm, 1753-1761. 3 volumes.

It was Sweden that provided the world with a system for classifying the multitude of plants that had been discovered or identified since the discoveries associated with the New World. The appearance in 1737 of Linneaus's *Genera Plantarum* was the starting point for modern systematic botany. Ten years later the Swedish Academy of Sciences on the suggestion of Linneaus decided to enlarge their knowledge about America. The man chosen for the task was one of the great botanist's most able pupils, Peter Kalm. He spent four years traveling as far north as Canada and as far west as Niagara Falls. This is his account of his trip, the first purely scientific expedition in what is now the United States to be sponsored by a government. The work had a wide circulation. It was translated into German, French, and English, and went through numerous editions.

58. Thomas Jefferson. *Notes on the state of Virginia*. [Paris, 1785].

This is perhaps the best known natural history of North America by an American. Jefferson originally composed it in answer to a series of questions put by the French government about the nature of the country with which it had become allied. He later expanded it and had it printed privately in Paris for distribution to a number of his friends. It was later reprinted many times. In part Jefferson was attempting to reply to a number of French writers who had been making derogatory statements about America. He wanted to make sure that his readers were aware of the superiority of things American.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF KING CHARLES THE FIRST

IN THE YEAR OF HIS REIGN THE SECOND

OF HIS AGE THE FIFTY-NINTH

IN THE YEAR OF HIS REIGN

THE SECOND

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OF HIS AGE THE FIFTY-NINTH

IN THE YEAR OF HIS REIGN

59. John Moultrie. *Dissertatio Medica Inauguralis, de Febre maligna biliosa Americae*. Edinburgh, 1749.

One of the far-reaching effects of the frontier upon Europe was the introduction of a whole group of new diseases, particularly tropical diseases. We cannot be sure the American continent was directly responsible, but when Europeans began living in new climates, they contracted a number of new diseases. Among these, yellow fever was particularly terrifying because it occurred in epidemics that laid low entire cities. This is the first description of that disease and it is by an American. It is a dissertation presented by a young man from Charleston as a part of his candidacy for a medical degree at the University of Edinburgh.

60. Benjamin Franklin. *Experiments and Observations on Electricity*. London, 1751.

This is America's best known contribution to science. Many men from Cotton Mather to Jefferson had written on scientific subjects, but these letters which Franklin's friend, Peter Collinson, communicated to the Royal Society probably did more than anything else to make Europe aware that the new communities across the Atlantic were producing men who were more than rustic colonials.

X THE INDIVIDUAL

61. John Peter Zenger. *The Tryal*. London, 1738.

Freedom of the press is treasured as one of America's major contributions to liberty. John Peter Zenger is the folk hero with whom we all associate its beginnings. He was acquitted of the charge of seditious libel against the governor of New York at a trial in which for the first time the fact that statements were true could be pleaded as a defense. Although it took almost a century for the principle to become accepted in English law, Zenger is still the symbol of its beginnings. The account of the trial shown here is one of the London editions. It first appeared in New York in 1736. In the years following it was reprinted more frequently in England than in America.

62. Benjamin Franklin. *Proposals Relating to the Education of Youth in Pensilvania*. Philadelphia, 1749.

In this essay we have an early expression of America's practical approach to education. It was Franklin's thesis that schools should put emphasis on useful subjects such as writing, English, and mathematics. The study of Greek and Latin and other foreign languages he feels is only necessary for those who will make use of them, clergymen in the case of the classic languages and merchants in the case of modern languages. The proposals set down here were ultimately realized in the founding of what today is the University of Pennsylvania.

63. The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons. *Extracts and Remarks on the Subject of Punishment and Reformation of Criminals*. Philadelphia, [1790].

Of the many humanitarian causes that appeared at the end of the eighteenth century the one that best illustrates society's concern for the individual for the sake of the individual was the prison reform movement. The movement was begun in England by John Howard, who from 1773 to 1790 visited prisons all over Europe. In this country his work found fertile

soil in Pennsylvania where the religious climate created by the Quakers nourished a number of social reforms. However, the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons, founded in 1787, was headed by an Episcopalian, Bishop William White. This is the Society's first official publication and consists of extracts on prison reform from a number of European writers. The Society went on to develop the Pennsylvania prison system that gained both national and international recognition.

64. Adam Smith. *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*. London, 1776.

Here in this classic statement of laissez-faire capitalism we find the following statement, "The discovery of America and that of a passage to the East Indies by the Cape of Good Hope, are the two greatest and most important events recorded in the history of mankind." One of the themes of the book is that the wealth of the world that flowed into Europe from the discoveries so altered its economic structure that western civilization came to be the most powerful force in modern history. In a sense The Wealth of Nations was an economic declaration of independence. Published in 1776, it showed how the wealth of the New World had freed the economy of Europe from the shackles of the past.

65. *Constitutions des Treize États-Unis de l'Amérique*. Paris, 1783.

This book epitomizes the impact of America upon the political institutions of Europe. In 1781 the Continental Congress ordered the compilation and publication of the basic documents of the new nation. These were the constitutions of each of the thirteen states, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the two treaties with France. Expressed in those documents were all the major forces for political freedom that Europeans were to associate with America. In France, Benjamin Franklin arranged to have the book translated and published so that all of Europe might come to understand the new country that was about to join the family of nations. This semi-official edition issued by our representative to the Court of France symbolizes one of the important climaxes of the three centuries during which Europe struggled to adjust herself to the Great Frontier.

XI - XII MAPS

66. Claudius Ptolemaeus. *Geographia*... Ulm, 1482.

Before the Discoveries, the geographical ideas of educated Europeans were derived from the writings of Claudius Ptolemy, an Alexandrian of the second century A.D. Manuscripts of his works survived the Dark Ages, and not long after the invention of printing his Geography was published in Italy and later reprinted in other countries. This map of the known world represents the surviving classical tradition in the form prescribed by Ptolemy, as known in the time of Columbus.

67. Livio Sanuto. *Geografia*... Venice, 1588.

Although Northern Africa was familiar to Europeans from ancient times, the southern end of the continent was not reached until 1488. Bartholomeu Dias's discovery of the Cape of Good Hope in that year and the voyage of Vasco da Gama to Calicut a decade later opened up the eastern water route to the wealth of the Indies. This map of the southern part of Africa is one of twelve in Livio Sanuto's magnificently printed book on the geography of Africa.



68. [Baptista Agnese. World map, manuscript]. (In manuscript atlas, c. 1548).

Magellan's voyage around the world not only furnished the first practical demonstration of the sphericity of the world, but made clear for the first time the extent of the frontier that had been opened up for Europeans by the earlier discoveries. The track of his voyage is marked on this map. Also indicated is the very important route of the annual plate fleets, from Peru to Spain, marked appropriately by a golden line.

69. Edward Wright and Emery Molyneux. [World chart on the Mercator Projection]. (In Richard Hakluyt, The Principal Navigations, London, 1599).

This "true hydrographical description of so much of the world as hath beene hetherto discovered" is in two parts, the eastern hemisphere being shown here. It was the first world map, after Mercator's, to be made on the projection invented by him, as improved and made practical by Edward Wright, a Cambridge don. The usefulness of this projection in navigating long distances was soon proved in voyages of exploration as well as commerce.

MAPS DISPLAYED ON WALL PANELS

70. Aaron Arrowsmith. A Map of the World on a Globular Projection... London, 1794 [with additions to 1799]. (Western Hemisphere).

The two pairs of hemispheres displayed along this wall were chosen to illustrate the development in knowledge of the world which took place in two and a half centuries. Arrowsmith's hemispheres are surprisingly close to modern maps, except for the two polar regions. The mythical southern continent had disappeared, but the true Antarctic continent had not yet been discovered. The Arctic region also was not yet known from observation.

71. Michele Tramezini. [World map in hemispheres]. Venice and Rome, 1554. (Western Hemisphere).

Although Tramezini's hemispheres of 1554 are constructed on a somewhat different projection and based on a different prime meridian from the later map of Arrowsmith, they are close enough in their general effect to form a dramatic contrast. The particular concept of the shape of the North American continent shown by Tramezini was derived from manuscript maps by the Spanish geographer Alonso de Santa Cruz.

72. Michele Tramezini. [World map in hemispheres]. Venice and Rome, 1554. (Eastern Hemisphere).

The contrast between the eastern hemispheres of 1554 and 1799 is no less striking than is the case with the American delineations. In the sixteenth century geographical knowledge of the Far East still depended heavily on the classical ideas of Ptolemy, mingled with the first-hand but necessarily vague thirteenth-century accounts of Marco Polo. The Portuguese and Spanish voyages to India and the Spice Islands brought definite knowledge that was often superimposed on the earlier notions, producing a good deal of confusion. The African voyages had already made possible a relatively accurate idea of the shape of that continent only sixty-six years after Bartholomeu Dias first sighted the Cape of Good Hope.

73. Aaron Arrowsmith. A Map of the World on a Globular Projection... London, 1794 [with additions to 1799]. (Eastern Hemisphere).

Arrowsmith's Eastern Hemisphere shows the results of Captain Cook's voyages, but it was designed just too early to record the voyage of George Bass, who in 1798 discovered the strait now named for him which separates Tasmania from the mainland of Australia.

The Library's copy of the Arrowsmith hemisphere map is in the form in which it came from the press, with margins on all the sheets. These would normally have been trimmed off if the map had been mounted by its original purchaser and hung over a fireplace in a stately Georgian mansion, as was intended by the publisher.

74. [Martin Waldseemüller]. Orbis Typus Universalis. [Strasbourg?, 1507-1513?].

This map contains one of the earliest representations of the discoveries of Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci. Waldseemüller was a well-known geographer who conducted a school at St. Dié in Lorraine. The date and circumstances of publication of the map have not been definitely established.

75. [Martin Waldseemüller. Western Hemisphere]. (From Joannes de Stobnicza, Introductio in Ptholomei Cosmographiam, Cracow, 1512).

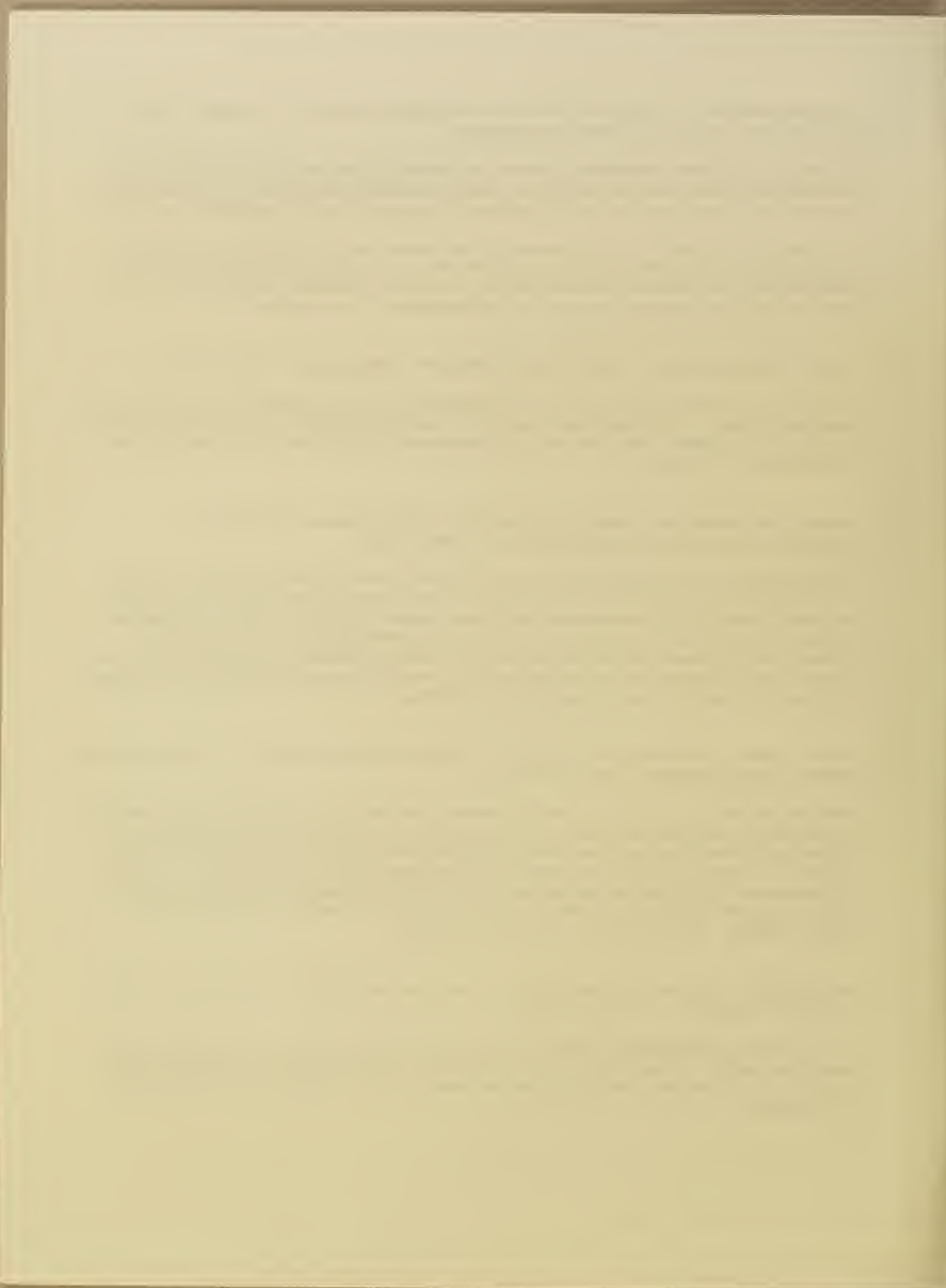
Waldseemüller's great world map of 1507, the first to use the name America, was lost to view for several centuries until one copy of it was rediscovered in 1901. It contained two small insets of the hemispheres which were copied in 1512 by a Polish geographer, Joannes de Stobnicza, to illustrate his edition of Waldseemüller's book published in Cracow, then the capital of Poland as well as a center of learning. A strikingly accurate guess as to the location and relationships of the recently discovered American continents is shown in a simple, almost diagrammatic drawing.

76. Robert Thorne. The forme of a Mappe sent 1527 from Sivill in Spayne... (From Richard Hakluyt, Divers voyages, London, 1582).

Both the English claim to part of North America and their early interest in the possibility of a Northwest Passage are shown in this little map. It was sent to Dr. Edward Lee in England by Robert Thorne, a merchant of Bristol who carried on his business in Seville and was in a position to know the Spanish and Portuguese ideas of geography. He wrote an explanation of the map and apologized for its "rude composition". Although drawn in 1527, it was not published until fifty-five years later when Hakluyt included it in his Divers voyages. The book itself is shown in Case II.

77. M.D.XXXIII. Del mese di Dicembre. La carta universale della terra ferma & Isole delle Indie occidentali... [Venice, 1534].

This woodcut map supposedly follows in general the lines of the secret official Spanish map of the world. It shows the growth of knowledge of the Americas during the generation since their discovery and indicates the location of Peru, Spain's most recent field of expansion.



78. [Antonio Pereira? World map, western hemisphere only]. Manuscript, [c. 1546].

The period of the great explorations of the western world reached a climax in the 1530's and early 1540's with a succession of voyages along unknown waterways. Thus the interiors of the new continents were revealed to the minds and imaginations of contemporary observers. This beautiful Portuguese manuscript map shows the results of exploration of the St. Lawrence River by Cartier, the Gulf of California by Francisco de Ulloa, and the Amazon by Francisco de Orellana.

79. Paolo Forlani. . . .un disegno overo una particular descrittione di tutte le navigationi del Mondo nuovo. . . . Venice, 1574.

Forlani's map of North and South America shows some interesting theories as to the shape of the new continents and their relationship to the Asiatic territories long known to Europeans but not fully explored. Some of these theories were wrong, for example, the exaggerated longitudinal extent of North America. Others were inspired guesses, such as the Strait of Anian in the completely unexplored area where Bering Strait actually lies.

80. [Giacomo Gastaldi]. Universale Descrittione di tutta la Terra. . . . Venice, [1562-1564?].

This map by the Italian geographer Gastaldi represents an intermediate period in the development of his theories. His earlier maps show a small southern continent south of the Strait of Magellan. In this map the supposed Terra Australis is prominent, as it is on his later maps. It does not, however, show any water passage between Asia and America. The two continents are joined by a broad land area labeled "Terra Incognita". The theory of the existence of the Strait of Anian as well as its name were first put into print by Gastaldi in a book of 1562, the only copy of which is in the John Carter Brown Library.

81. Louis de Mayerne Turquet. La nouvelle manière de représenter le globe. . . . Paris, 1648.

In 1648 a French geographer published a pamphlet describing the polar projection he used for this world map, and extolling its supposed advantages over all others. Geographically, the map is also of interest for its portrayal of the theoretical Southern Continent. Awkward as it appears to us, this projection was used thirty-four years later by Jean Doménique Cassini for a map twenty-four feet wide drawn on the floor of the Paris Observatory incorporating Cassini's new scientific measurements of longitude.

82. John Thornton. A New Mapp of the World. . . . [London, c. 1680-1682].

This map on the familiar Mercator projection conveys an idea of what the English knew, or thought they knew, of their expanding world in the third quarter of the seventeenth century, when the organization of their empire was beginning to take form.

83. [Gerhard Friedrich Müller]. Nouvelle Carte des Decouvertes faites par des Vaisseaux Russes. . . . St. Petersburg, 1754.

The complete record of the discoveries of Vitus Bering and his associates first appeared on this map published in St. Petersburg in 1754, fourteen years after his death on one of the Aleutian Islands. For the first time actual observation of parts of the area enabled a mapmaker to show Alaska and Bering Strait in a fair approximation of their actual positions.

84. Henry Roberts. Chart of the N.W. Coast of America and the N.E. Coast of Asia...
London, 1784.

This chart covers approximately the same area as the map on the left, thirty years later. The track of Captain James Cook's exploration of the Northern Pacific in 1778 is shown in detail. The green tract towards the west represents the continuation of the voyage in the following year after Cook had been killed by natives in the Hawaiian Islands.

